



## THIS WEEK IN IRAQ

The Official Newsletter of the Multi-National Force - Iraq

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# Ambush Alley now Quiet

**RAMADI** — Step after step, combat boots hit the pavement. It's been a few hours for the Marine squad walking the Ramadi streets. Fatigued yet steady, the young men push forward on their routine foot patrol despite the mid-day desert heat; each squad member maintaining a constant alertness with eyes scanning the environment in every direction.

The squad leader passes by a familiar face; a local vender who he sees almost every day. Instantly, the look of exhaustion washes away, and a smile is brought to his face. Lifting his hand, he warmly greets the vender with, "Al salaam a'alaykum."

Every day, Marine infantrymen like those with Company A, 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 1, patrol neighborhoods and actively engage the community of al-Anbar province. But the Marines are not alone on these patrols; they are walking side-by-side with Iraqi policemen, mentoring and providing guidance as they take responsibility for the safety of their own community.

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Lance Cpl. Matthew D. Nasso, a rifleman with Company A, walks with Iraqi policemen during a dismounted joint patrol through a neighborhood of Ramadi. Official U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Casey Jones.

## This Week in News ...

**Democracy Takes Root in Arab Jabour**

**The Way Ahead for Sons of Iraq**



**Press Conference:** Security and Reconstruction Briefing

**Reconstruction Report:** The latest from USACE

**Hot Item:** See Footage from MNF-I on Our YouTube Channel



## U.S. General Cites Steady Progress

**BAGHDAD** — Iraqi and U.S. forces are making progress while performing counterinsurgency and reconstruction missions across Iraq, a senior U.S. military officer posted in Iraq said May 14.

Iraqi and coalition forces continue to make gains in establishing security and enforcing the rule of law in Baghdad, Mosul and Basra over the past week, Army Maj. Gen. Kevin Bergner, a Multi-National Force - Iraq spokesman, told reporters at a Baghdad news conference.

In Basra, Iraqi forces involved in an operation dubbed "Sawlat al Fursan,"

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Specialist Brock Solwold, Co. D, 1-30th Inf. Regt., practices detainee operations with Iraqi Soldiers of the 6/25/6 IA, at PB Red May 15. When the 2nd BCT redeploys this summer, the IA forces will be responsible for the area. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. David Turner.

## Iraqi Army Preps for Battle

### FORWARD OPERATING BASE

**KALSU** — Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, conducted training with their IA counterparts at Patrol Base Red May 15 to prepare the IA Soldiers for joint patrols.

The Soldiers of Company D, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, are stationed at PB Red along with the Iraqi company from 6th Battalion, 25th Brigade, 6th IA Division.

“We’re currently training the IA in basic soldiering skills,” said platoon leader and instructor 1st Lt. Christopher Domenico, adding the Soldiers are right out of the Iraqi basic training environment.

“They do know good skills. They can field-strip their AK-47s, they know basic room-clearing skills, and that’s good for

us since the training we do here builds on those skills,” said Domenico, a native of Hollywood, Fla. “It’s pretty much reinforcing what they know, then adding on another level of training.”

Room clearing was the focus of the May 15 training, with the Company D Soldiers providing advice and acting as role players while the Iraqi Soldiers practiced the tasks. Working in teams, the IA Soldiers simulated a dismounted patrol and then practiced room-clearing procedures and detaining suspects. This is a skill members of the 1-30th Inf. Regt. have honed during their nearly year-long stay in the area of southern Baghdad Province they are responsible for.

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## President Meets Iraqi VP in Egypt

**WASHINGTON** — President Bush noted the improved security situation in Iraq’s southern oil city of Basra following meetings with Iraqi Vice President Abd al-Mahdi in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt, May 18.

Bush said he told Iraqi representatives at the World Economic Forum on the Middle East that he’s impressed with the progress being made in Iraq. “We talked about Basra and the success of the Iraqi government in Basra in dealing with Shia extremists,” Bush said.

The people of the Middle East must understand how important a successful Iraq is to the greater region, Bush said.

Al-Mahdi said the leaders discussed the way forward on the security, political and economic fronts. “We are working together, really, Iraq and the United States,” the vice president said. “And we were always optimistic even in the worst days.”

Operations in the north continue to put pressure on al Qaida in Iraq, while residents in the southern city of Basra are reaping the benefits of security.

Operations throughout Iraq show that Iraqi security forces are taking a larger role in bringing security to the people.

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## National Police, Iraqi Army Conduct Clearing Mission

### FORWARD OPERATING BASE LOY-

**ALTY** — Iraqi national police officials with support from Iraqi army soldiers conducted a clearance mission in the Karadah Security District of eastern Baghdad, May 17.

With national police Brig. Gen. Aamir and his operations officer, Col. Tariq, leading the effort, 1st Brigade, 1st National Police Division, conducted a cordon-and-search mission within Muhalla 711 to find and confiscate illegal weapons and explosives.

Other goals of the mission, which involved every battalion of the brigade including Iraqi army soldiers under their operational control, encompassed deterring special group and Jaysh al-Mahdi activity in the area and apprehending insurgent suspects and criminals identified through the ministry of interior.

Initial reports indicate the national police confiscated 150 AK-47 assault rifles, four sniper rifles, six sub-machineguns a pistol, four improvised explosive devices consist-

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Iraqi national policemen from 1st Brigade, 1st National Police Division knock on a gate during a recent operation. DoD photo.